

Appendix table 7-26.

Public assessment of use of mice in scientific research: 2001
(Percentages)

Characteristic	Strongly agree	Agree	Do not know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Sample size (number)
All adults	9	59	3	23	7	1,574
Male	12	63	2	18	5	751
Female	6	55	4	27	8	823
Formal education						
Less than high school	3	58	4	23	12	116
High school graduate	10	58	3	24	6	834
Baccalaureate degree and higher	11	61	2	21	5	614
Science/mathematics education^a						
Low	8	57	4	24	7	674
Middle	7	61	2	22	8	469
High	13	59	2	21	4	431
Age (years)						
18–24	3	52	2	26	17	154
25–34	9	54	2	29	6	288
35–44	11	59	2	23	5	320
45–64	10	59	4	22	5	557
65 and older	8	69	4	16	3	240
Attentiveness to science and technology^b						
Attentive public	13	54	4	21	8	195
Interested public	10	61	2	21	6	755
Residual public	6	58	3	26	7	624
Question order^c						
Mice first	9	59	4	23	5	787
Dogs and chimps first	9	59	2	23	8	787

^aRespondents were classified as having a “high” level of science/mathematics education if they took nine or more high school and college science/mathematics courses. They were classified as “middle” if they took six to eight such courses and “low” if they took five or fewer.

^bTo be classified as attentive to a given policy area, an individual must indicate that he or she is “very interested” in that issue, is “very well informed” about it, and a regular reader of a daily newspaper or relevant national magazine. Individuals who report that they are “very interested” in an issue area but do not think that they are “very well informed” about it are classified as the “interested public.” All other individuals are classified as members of the “residual public” for that issue. The attentive public for science and technology combines the attentive public for new scientific discoveries and the attentive public for new inventions and technologies. Any individual who is not attentive to either of those issues but who is a member of the interested public for at least one of those issues is classified as a member of the interested public for science and technology. All other individuals are classified as members of the residual public for science and technology.

^cHalf the survey respondents were first asked about their attitudes toward the use of mice in scientific research, and then asked about their attitudes toward the use of dogs and chimpanzees in scientific research. The other respondents were asked these questions in the opposite order. See appendix table 7-27.

NOTE: A few respondents did not provide information about their highest level of education. Responses are to the following statement: Scientists should be allowed to do research that causes pain and injury to animals like mice if it produces new information about human health problems. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics (NSF/SRS), NSF Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology, 2001.